



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/691,050

10/23/2003

Eric J. Nesseth

TLR-5128 US

6849

7590

10/31/2006

Tipton L. Randall
19371 55th Avenue
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

EXAMINER

PANG, ROGER L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3681

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/691,050	Applicant(s) NESSETH, ERIC J.	
	Examiner Roger L. Pang	Art Unit 3681	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-6,8,12,14 and 17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,7,9-11,13,15,16 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10-23-03</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The following action is in response to the election filed for application 10/691,050 on October 13, 2006.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 4-6, 8, 12, 14, and 17 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on October 13, 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 7, 10-11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ota '046. With regard to claim 1, Ota teaches an electromechanical shifting apparatus for a vehicle having an electrical system and a transmission equipped with a counter shaft 10 utilizing partial rotation to shift gears, the shifting apparatus comprising; an actuator assembly including a bidirectional, linear actuator member 3 powered by an electrical motor 1, the actuator assembly secured to a frame of the vehicle (Fig. 2); a shift linkage 7 operatively connecting the bidirectional, linear actuator member to the counter shaft of the vehicle transmission; a wiring harness assembly connected to the electrical system of the vehicle, the wiring harness assembly powering the electrical motor of the actuation assembly (Fig. 14/15); and a switch member (Fig. 1) interconnected with the wiring harness, the switch member including first

Art Unit: 3681

51 and second actuation 52 positions and an off position (neither pressed), the first actuation position 51 providing a selected current flow direction to the actuator assembly motor to drive the linear actuator member in a first direction and the second actuation position 52 reversing the current flow direction to the actuator assembly motor relative to the selected current flow direction, thereby driving the linear actuator member in a second direction opposite the first direction. With regard to claim 2, Ota teaches the apparatus, wherein the actuator assembly is secured to the vehicle frame by a mounting bracket member (Fig. 2). With regard to claim 3, Ota teaches the apparatus, wherein the bidirectional linear actuator member includes a gear drive 2. With regard to claim 7, Ota teaches the apparatus, wherein the switch member includes a momentary on/off/on momentary switch member (Figs. 1/14/15). With regard to claim 10, please see the limitations of rejected claims 1 and 3 above. With regard to claim 11, please see the limitations of rejected claim 2 above. With regard to claim 13, please see the limitations of rejected claim 7 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 9, 15-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ota as applied to claims 1-2 and 7 above, and further in view of Cognon'774. With regard to claim 9, Ota teaches the apparatus, but lacks the specific teaching wherein the switch member is mounted to a steering handle bar of the vehicle. Gagnon teaches a vehicle with a similar

Art Unit: 3681

switching device 12 mounted to a steering handle bar 32 of a vehicle. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify Ota to mount the switching device onto a handle bar to provide a shifter that is ergonomic, easy to operate, and allows the driver to easily shift gears (Col. 1). With regard to claims 15 and 17, please see the limitations of rejected claim 7 above. With regard to claim 16, please see the limitations of rejected claims 1-3 and 9 above.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hembree, Horii, Rioux, Saban and Tatewaki have been cited to show similar transmission controllers.

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Submission of your response by facsimile transmission is encouraged. The central facsimile number is (571) 273-8300. Recognizing the fact that reducing cycle time in the processing and examination of patent applications will effectively increase a patent's term, it is to your benefit to submit responses by facsimile transmission whenever permissible. Such submission will place the response directly in our examining group's hands and will eliminate Post Office processing and delivery time as well as the PTO's mail room processing and delivery time. For a complete list of correspondence not permitted by facsimile transmission, see MPEP 502.01. In general, most responses and/or amendments not requiring a fee, as well as those requiring a fee but charging such fee to a deposit account, can be submitted by facsimile transmission. Responses

Art Unit: 3681

requiring a fee which applicant is paying by check should not be submitting by facsimile transmission separately from the check.

Responses submitted by facsimile transmission should include a Certificate of Transmission (MPEP 512). The following is an example of the format the certification might take:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (571) 273-8300) on _____ (Date)

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

(Signature)

If your response is submitted by facsimile transmission, you are hereby reminded that the original should be retained as evidence of authenticity (37 CFR 1.4 and MPEP 502.02). Please do not separately mail the original or another copy unless required by the Patent and Trademark Office. Submission of the original response or a follow-up copy of the response after your response has been transmitted by facsimile will only cause further unnecessary delays in the processing of your application; duplicate responses where fees are charged to a deposit account may result in those fees being charged twice.

Art Unit: 3681

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Roger L. Pang whose telephone number is 571-272-7096. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Roger L Pang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3681

October 27, 2006